

# MUDDY WATERS

News from the Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

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## Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

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## COOPERATORS



## THE NEW MUDDY WATERS

What a difference a year makes. Welcome to a new incarnation of *Muddy Waters*, the newsletter of the Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. A lot has changed since the last edition. The biggest change is that I have moved from the Kansas Unit at K-State to become the leader of the Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Missouri. The newsletter has followed me to Missouri but there are still ties to Kansas. I still have two students at K-State so the information in the following pages includes updates not only from Missouri projects, but also continued updates of the students and projects I advise at K-State. The second change is that the newsletter will include both fisheries and wildlife research and students at the Missouri Unit. This will become much more evident in the future as we have filled our Assistant Leader-Wildlife. See page 6 for more details.

We also have big changes in the Missouri Unit itself. Charlie Rabeni retired in 2008 and David Galat retired in 2010. The impact these two scientists had on graduate training, and stream and river conservation in Missouri and the nation is very impressive. I am very appreciative of their efforts and the strong reputation they developed for quality science at the Missouri Unit. These are some big shoes to fill. With these changes come other changes. I started as the leader in June 2010 and we just hired our Assistant Leader-Wildlife, Lisa Webb.

What has not changed is the mission of the Cooperative Research Units: conduct research that meets the needs of our cooperators and our focus on graduate



Craig Paukert at Ding Darling NWR. Ding Darling was the catalyst for the creation of the first Coop Unit at Iowa State College in 1932.

education and training. Throughout the newsletter you will see awards, honors, research, and service by the students and research staff. Our students are productive in their research, but also productive in their service to professional societies, and have been rewarded for these efforts. As always, we remain committed to mentoring graduate students and meeting the needs of our cooperators.

So I hope you enjoy the new incarnation of *Muddy Waters*. I would love to hear your feedback or comments, and if there are research needs that the Missouri Unit can help with, please let me know.

Craig Paukert  
[paukerc@missouri.edu](mailto:paukerc@missouri.edu)

## SCIENTISTS, STUDENTS AND STAFF HOLD OFFICER POSITIONS

Several of our Kansas and Missouri group currently hold elected positions within the American Fisheries Society. **Craig Paukert** has been the Secretary/Treasurer for the Education Section of AFS since 2009. **Jodi Whittier** is the President-Elect for the Fisheries Information and Technology Section of the AFS. PhD student **Jeff Fore** is currently President-Elect for the Student Subsection, and MS student **Jake Faulkner** was elected North Central Division Representative of the Student Subsection. **Joe Gerken** was Secretary/Treasurer for the Student Subsection in 2010. Finally, **Jason Fischer** is currently Secretary/Treasurer for the K-State Student SubUnit of the AFS.



## STUDENT HELPS ORGANIZE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**Jacob Westhoff**, PhD student, was instrumental in hosting the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual International Association of Astacology Symposium. Jacob worked with biologists from MDC and other groups to host the conference in summer 2010 at MU. The 5-day meeting had over 50 oral presentations and 25 posters from around the world. Jacob co-instructed a workshop on the uses of passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags in crayfish research and helped plan and lead a 3-day post-conference field trip. Congratulations Jacob for helping pull off this conference. This level of commitment to service by a student finishing his PhD is impressive.

## STUDENTS AND STAFF

**Jon Spurgeon** is a MS student evaluating translocations as a tool to recover humpback chub in Grand Canyon. Jon, a MU graduate, previously worked with the USFWS in Columbia, MO. He began in summer 2010. **Jake Faulkner** is also a MU grad and his MS research focuses on habitat selection of Niangua darters. Previously Jake worked with MDC on various stream issues, including Niangua darter monitoring. He is from Jefferson City, Missouri. **Jeff Fore** is a PhD student working on how agricultural conservation practices in the Missouri River basin affect fishes. He received his BS from Oklahoma State University and MS from Eastern Illinois University and is a native of Ponca City, Oklahoma. **Landon Pierce** is a PhD student studying conservation planning for fishes in the Colorado River Basin. He is a native of Nebraska, and completed his BS at the University of Nebraska before finishing his MS at South Dakota State University (SDSU) working on paddlefish population dynamics. **Jason Harris** is from Rapid City, South Dakota, and completed his BS at SDSU before coming to MU in January 2011 to study habitat selection of largemouth bass in Table Rock Lake. **Jacob Westhoff** received his BS from MU, and his MS at Tennessee Tech University. Jacob is currently finishing his PhD on population ecology of invasive crayfish in Missouri. **Justin Buckler** is obtaining his MS studying how contaminants affect sturgeon reproduction. He received a BS from MU and will be finishing in 2011. **Meagan Montgomery** is finishing her MS studying how fish use a constructed fishway in a Missouri River floodplain. She also received her BS from MU and will finishing up in 2011. Finally, **Josh Lallaman** is finalizing his PhD dissertation on ecology of paddlefish in the Osage River. Josh is a Wisconsin native and received his BS from Wisconsin-Steven Point and MS from Central Michigan University.



Jon Spurgeon



Jake Faulkner



Landon Pierce, right, with a South Dakota paddlefish

University (SDSU) working on paddlefish population dynamics. **Jason Harris** is from Rapid City, South Dakota, and completed his BS at SDSU before coming to MU in January 2011 to study habitat selection of largemouth bass in Table Rock Lake. **Jacob Westhoff** received his BS from MU, and his MS at Tennessee Tech University. Jacob is currently finishing his PhD on population ecology of invasive crayfish in Missouri. **Justin Buckler** is obtaining his MS studying how contaminants affect sturgeon reproduction. He received a BS from MU and will be finishing in 2011. **Meagan Montgomery** is finishing her MS studying how fish use a constructed fishway in a Missouri River floodplain. She also received her BS from MU and will finishing up in 2011. Finally, **Josh Lallaman** is finalizing his PhD dissertation on ecology of paddlefish in the Osage River. Josh is a Wisconsin native and received his BS from Wisconsin-Steven Point and MS from Central Michigan University.

There is several research staff or co-investigators affiliated with the Unit. **Dr. Jodi Whittier** is a co-principal investigator on several grants related to conservation planning for freshwater fishes, and how climate change will affect fish habitat. She is a native of California and has a BS from Cal Poly-San Louis Obispo, and a MS and PhD from Oklahoma State University. She has previously worked for US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service. **Dr. Allison Pease** is a post-doctoral researcher working on the population-level effects of climate change on smallmouth bass. She is a native of Texas and received her BS from University of Texas, MS from University of New Mexico, and PhD from Texas A&M University before arriving in summer 2010 at MU. **Dr. Karthik Masagounder** is a post-doctoral researcher working on invasion potential of Asian carp into the Great Lakes. His is working closely the USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center in Columbia, and received his PhD at MU. **Dan Whiting** is working with Jon Spurgeon on evaluating the translocations of humpback chub in Grand Canyon. He received his BS and MS from Southern Illinois University and is a native of Illinois. **Cathy Bodinof** joined the group in 2011 to help **Allison Pease** and **Jodi Whittier** on our climate change project. Cathy received her MS from MU and is currently seeking PhD programs.

Craig Paukert still has a couple of graduate students he advises at K-State who are considered part of our group. **Joe Gerken** is a PhD student at K-State and is working on how floodplain connectivity and river flows affect river fishes. Joe is a naive of Ohio with a BS from Miami University (Ohio) and a MS from Central Arkansas University. **Jason Fischer** is from Flint, Michigan and received his BS from Michigan State University. He is currently working on his MS at K-State evaluating how sand dredging affect fish and fish habitat in large rivers. Both Joe and Jason will be wrapping up in late 2011 or early 2012.



Justin Buckler



Jason Fischer

He is currently working on his MS at K-State evaluating how sand dredging affect fish and fish habitat in large rivers. Both Joe and Jason will be wrapping up in late 2011 or early 2012.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

### Restoring river floodplain connectivity for fish spawning and nursery. MU PI: D. Galat

This study assessed potential benefits of fish passage structures at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area adjacent to the Missouri River. **Meagan Montgomery** is the MS student on the project, which was funded by MDC. She found that the highest connection frequency occurred from March to August, but duration of connectivity was variable. The hydrologic model being developed can help resource agencies manage for future flood events by determining optimal dates for enabling river-floodplain connectivity via the fishway.

### Recruitment of large river fishes. MU PI: C. Paukert



The objectives of this project are to identify recruitment bottlenecks for large river fishes and aid in the development of minimum flow requirements for fishes in the Kansas River. **Joe Gerken**, PhD student at K-State, finished his second field season where he is concentrating on the link between backwaters and the mainchannel to determine how fishes in large rivers use the habitats and energy from backwaters.

The study is funded by K-State and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

### Sand dredging effects on fish and fish habitat. MU PI: C. Paukert

This study, which is housed at K-State and funded by Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, will help determine if fish communities and instream habitat differ at sand dredging sites and more natural river reaches in the Kansas River. **Jason Fischer**, a MS student at K-State, is working on the project which is in collaboration with Melinda Daniels, a fluvial geomorphologist at K-State. The project will wrap up in December 2011.



### Movement and reproduction of paddlefish in the Osage River. MU PI: D. Galat

The objectives of this MDC funded study were to collect sex and reproductive information, and model physical factors needed to facilitate upstream passage of paddlefish at a lock and dam in the Osage River. Steroid analysis identified reproductive condition and physiological timing of spawning. Daily movement of transmitters provided information on passage conditions at the lock and dam. Upstream habitat analysis indicated the presence of suitable spawning habitat under most flows. **Josh Lal-laman**, PhD student, is finishing his dissertation on the project.

### Assessing the effects of contaminants on sturgeon. MU PI: D. Galat

Contaminants in shovelnose sturgeon continue to be found at concentrations above thresholds for adverse effects on reproduction and development in other fish species. A study was designed to assess how concentrations of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in Upper Mississippi River shovelnose sturgeon eggs from two sites affected early life stage development. An egg exposure study determined that shovelnose and pallid sturgeon were simi-

larly sensitive to polychlorinated biphenyl-126 (a POP), suggesting that shovelnose sturgeon may be a suitable surrogate for pallid sturgeon in toxicity studies. **Justin Buckler** is a MS student working on this project, which was funded by MDC, MU, and USGS.

### Multi-scale habitat associations of native and invasive crayfish. MU PI: C. Rabeni

The goal of this project, which is funded by MDC, is to gather information that facilitates efforts to ensure the persistence of native crayfishes. The first objective is to determine multi-scale habitat associations of one invasive and two native crayfishes which can be used to inform decision makers about aspects of species' ecology and management. **Jacob Westhoff**, PhD student, will also relate potential human induced stressors in the drainage to the distribution of the three crayfishes to determine if anthropogenic activities are associated with the spread of the invasive or declines of the natives. The final objective is to create a monitoring strategy to detect changes in the occupancy of the three species of crayfish over time. Jacob will finish his PhD in 2011.

### Use of alternative food sources of bighead and silver carp. MU PI: C. Paukert

This study is designed, through laboratory and mesocosm experimentation, to determine if food available in the Great Lakes is adequate for long-term survival and growth of bigheaded carp. **Karthik Masagounder** is the post-doctoral researcher on this project, which is funded by USGS and is working closely with Duane Chapman at the Columbia Environmental Research Center. Laboratory experiments have revealed that fish gained about 30-50% body weight in 2 weeks. The results also indicated lower than expected growth based on the previous energetic modeling.

### Evaluations of humpback chub translocations in Grand Canyon. MU PIs: C. Paukert, J. Whittier, J. Millsbaugh, R. Gitzen

This project will evaluate the response of humpback chub (HBC) translocated in Shinumo Creek, and potential interactions including predation and trophic suppression between native and non native fishes in Bright Angel Creek, a site of proposed for HBC relocations. Initial analysis show that 41% of introduced HBC left Shinumo Creek since beginning translocations in 2009. Stable isotope analysis shows nonnative rainbow trout and translocated HBC are consuming resources at the same trophic levels. This work is part of a group effort between the National Park Service (NPS), US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the US Fish and Wildlife Service, MU, and others. **Jon Spurgeon**, MS student, and **Dan Whiting**, Sr. Research Technician, are both on the project, which is funded by the BOR, NPS, and USGS.

### Conservation planning for fishes in the Upper Colorado River Basin. MU PIs: C. Paukert, J. Whittier

This project builds on previous and on-going research we have been conducting on fish communities in the Lower Colorado River Basin. We have compiled a suite of environmental characteristics and threats associated with presence or absence of freshwater fish species. Federal and state agencies from all the states encompassing the UCRB have contributed nearly 800,000 records of

(Continued on page 4)

## STUDENTS AND STAFF RECEIVE RECOGNITION

**Jason Fischer**, a MS student of Craig Paukert's at K-State received second place for best student oral presentation at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in December 2010. This was one of Jason's first presentations so very impressive to receive an award at a 13-state meeting. **Joe Gerken**, a PhD student of Craig Paukert's at K-State, received the best student presentation award at the Kansas American Fisheries Society meeting in Wichita in January 2011. **Joe** also received a Certificate of Appreciation in August 2010 at the Pittsburg AFS meeting for his efforts as the co-editor of the Education Section of the AFS newsletter.

**Katie White**, an undergraduate working with **Joe Gerken**, received best student poster at the Kansas American Fisheries Society meeting in 2010. Katie published her research work in *River Research and Applications*.

**Craig Paukert** received two STAR awards from USGS in 2010. The first was for his service as part of the Program Committee for the Cooperative Research Unit All Hands Meeting. The second was based on outstanding performance in 2010.

## PROMOTING THE MISSOURI UNIT

**Craig Paukert** presented to the MDC Executive Leadership Team and the MU School of Natural Resources Alumni the history, productivity and research of the Missouri Unit. This was a great way to remind the cooperators who we are and what we do. Thanks to Mike Kruse (MDC) and Travis Moore (MU Alumni) for the invite!

## RESEARCH PROJECTS CONTINUED

(Continued from page 3)

fish sampled from the late 1800's to 2010.

**Landon Pierce** was hired in summer 2010 as the PhD student on the project. The USGS-funded project is a joint effort with **Julian Olden** at the University of Washington.



### Assessing threats to fish in the Lower Colorado River Basin. MU Pls: C. Paukert, J. Whittier

This USGS funded project will develop a suite of threat indicators for fishes in the Lower Colorado River Basin and is linked to the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership. **Craig Paukert** and **Jodi Whittier** are co-investigators on the project with **Julian Olden** at the University of Washington. **Angela Strecker**, a post-doctoral researcher at Washington, found that areas with high taxonomic, functional, and phylogenetic conservation value were represented by a variety of river systems in the Lower Colorado River Basin. However, taxonomic diversity was generally better represented in protected lands compared to functional and phylogenetic diversity. Future directions include refining methods to incorporate climate change predictions in the conservation value estimates and exploring the variables that most influenced native and non native fish distribution.

### Managing the nations fish habitat at multiple spatial scales. MU Pls: C. Paukert, J. Whittier

This USGS-funded study addresses the objectives of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan to examine the impact of climate and land-use change on the Nation's aquatic systems. This is a large effort with 17 principal investigators, and 13 students, post-docs, and research staff throughout the country. At MU, **Jodi Whittier** is leading the effort to determine how climate and land use change will affect fish habitat in the Lower Colorado River Basin, while **Allison Pease**, a post-doctoral researcher, is working on how climate change will affect smallmouth bass populations in the Central US. **Jake Faulkner**, MS student, is helping determine how climate change may affect Niangua darter distributions in Missouri.

### Remediating the effects of agricultural threats on lotic fishes. MU PI: D. Galat

The goal of this NRCS-funded study is to assess effectiveness of agricultural conservation practices at conserving lotic fish assemblages throughout the Missouri River Basin. **Jeff Fore**, PhD student, has developed threat indices that represent the cumulative effects of multiple agriculture, urbanization, point-source pollution, and infrastructural threats for every stream segment in the Missouri River basin. Results indicate that substantial agricultural conservation may be needed to improve ecological condition of Wadeable streams in the Missouri River basin.

### Habitat selection of largemouth bass in Table Rock Lake. MU PI: C. Paukert

In Table Rock Lake, MDC and other partners are attempting to improve fish habitat for largemouth bass and other fishes, and **Jason Harris**, MS student, will be helping these partners determine if largemouth bass select habitat structures that are being placed in the lake. Jason will use telemetry to track largemouth bass to determine if largemouth bass use these habitat structures and if this selection differs seasonally or by diel periods. The project, funded by MDC, will work with MDC fisheries biologists to begin transmitter implantation in spring 2011.

### Helping refine ecological flow research in Missouri. MU Pls: C. Paukert

The MDC has researched ecological flow for several years and has developed a Missouri Hydrologic Assessment Tool (MOHAT) which can be used to establish a hydrologic baseline and help aid in the development of ecological flow standards. However, there are still substantial improvements that need to be made to MOHAT. This study, funded by MDC which will begin in spring 2011, will help refine the list of flow metrics that can be used in refinement of MOHAT and further evaluate how these metrics are linked to biological metrics. This work could be used to determine the ecological response from altered hydrology to recommend suitable ecological flows for streams. A research associate will be selected in 2011 to work on this project.



## UNIT STUDENTS AND STAFF PUBLICATIONS

Jeffress, M., C. Paukert, J. Whittier, B. Sandercock, and P. Gipson. In press. Scale-dependent factors affecting North American river otter Distribution in the Midwest. *American Midland Naturalist*.

Jeffress, M., C. Paukert, B. Sandercock, and P. Gipson. 2011. Factors affecting the detectability of river otters during sign surveys. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 75:144-150.

Paukert, C., K. Pitts, J. Whittier, and J. Olden. 2011. Development and assessment of a landscape-level ecological threat index of the Lower Colorado River Basin. *Ecological Indicators* 11:304-310.

Bouska, W., T. Keane, and C. Paukert. 2010. The effects of road crossing design on geomorphology and classification of prairie streams. *Journal of Freshwater Ecology* 25:499-506.

Bouska, W., and C. Paukert. 2010. Effects of visible implant elastomer mark color on the predation of red shiners by largemouth bass. *Fisheries Management and Ecology* 17:294-296.

Bouska, W., and C. Paukert. 2010. Road crossing designs and their impact on fish assemblages of Great Plains streams. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 139:214-222.

Eitzmann, J., and C. Paukert. 2010. Urbanization in a Great Plains river: effects on fishes and food webs. *River Research and Applications* 26:948-959.

Eitzmann, J. and C. Paukert. 2010. Longitudinal differences in habitat complexity and fish assemblage structure of a Great Plains River. *American Midland Naturalist* 163:14-32.

Isermann, D. and C. Paukert. 2010. Regulating harvest. Pages 185-212 in: W. A. Hubert and M. C. Quist, editors. *Inland Fisheries Management in North America*, third edition. American Fisheries Society, Bethesda, Maryland.

Johnson, B., J. Barko, S. Bartell, R. Clevensine, M. Davis, D. Galat, K. Lubinski, J. Nestler. 2010. Partial restoration of natural hydrology on the Upper Mississippi River System: an adaptive management approach for water level reductions. *NESP ENV Report 12*. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Paukert, C. P and D. Galat. 2010. Large warm-water rivers. Pages 699-730 in: W. A. Hubert and M. C. Quist, editors. *Inland Fisheries Management in North America*, third edition. American Fisheries Society, Bethesda, Maryland.

Pool, T., J. Olden, J. Whittier, and C. Paukert. 2010. Environmental drivers of fish functional diversity and composition in the Lower Colorado River Basin. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 67:1791-1807.

Reeves, K. and D. Galat. 2010. Do larval fishes exhibit diel drift patterns in a large, turbid river? *Journal of Applied Ichthyology* 26:571-577.

White, K., J. Gerken, C. Paukert, and A. Makinster. 2010. Fish community structure in natural and engineered habitats in the Kansas River. *River Research and Applications*. 26:797-805



Missouri Unit students and scientists often present at professional meetings. Since summer 2010 they have given 20 presentations; students were lead author of 15 of these. Presentations were at the following meetings:

- American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA
- Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL
- American Society of Limnology and Oceanography/North American Benthological Society Annual Meeting, Santa Fe, NM
- Big River Confab, Jefferson City, MO
- Kansas Natural Resources Conference, Wichita, KS
- Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, St. Paul, MN
- Missouri River Natural Resources Conference. Nebraska City, NE
- Missouri Natural Resources Conference
- National Meeting of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. St. Louis, MO
- North Central Division of the AFS joint Walleye, Esocid and Centrarchid Technical Committees Meeting, La Crosse, WI
- 18<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the International Association of Astacology, Columbia, MO

## JODI WHITTIER TEACHES GIS COURSES

**Jodi Whittier** continues to teach the GIS courses at the American Fisheries Society and other meetings. Jodi has been teaching this for many years, most recently in Pittsburg at the national AFS meeting where she was assisted by PhD student **Joe Gerken**. She has also taught these courses across the US, Canada, and Japan and then developed this into a formal course on GIS Applications in Natural Resources that she taught at K-State. Jodi has also given lectures in two courses at MU and has an interest in developing courses at MU.



Allison holding a weakly electric gymnotiform fish *Rhamphichthys sp.*

## ALLISON PEASE SAMPLES AMAZON TRIBUTARY

**Dr. Allison Pease**, post-doctoral researcher, just came back from sampling the Rio Negro, a tributary of the Amazon in Brazil. Allison joined aquatic ecologists from The Nature Conservancy, Oregon State University, Texas A&M, Cornell, and others. One objective was to collect driftwood catfishes of the family Auchenipteridae. These fishes burrow inside submerged wood and are often found at high densities (dozens of individuals of 5-6 species per log). Tissue samples from these fish will be used by Brazilian researchers for genetic analyses to clarify phylogenetic relationships within the family. Allison has worked on neotropical fishes ecology in Belize and southern Mexico and hopes to continue research in Latin America in the future.

## DAVID GALAT RETIRES FROM THE MISSOURI UNIT

Long-time Assistant Leader David Galat retired from the USGS Cooperative Research Units in December 2010 after 22 years of service to the Missouri Unit cooperators. David developed an internationally-known research program in river ecology and restoration. He is finishing up a few graduate students and will remain on as adjunct faculty in the Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Department at MU. David's accomplishments are many, but perhaps could be summarized by just a few of the awards and recognition he has received in the last year or so.

- USGS STAR Award for Superior Performance in 2009
- MU Gold Chalk Award for Graduate Student Mentoring by the MU Graduate Professional Council in 2010
- Nominated by Missouri River Basin stakeholders to serve on National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council Committee on Missouri River Recovery and Associated Sediment Management Issues from 2008 to 2010

Congratulations David on your continued contributions to river restoration and graduate student training and development.



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MISSOURI UNIT

The Missouri Unit is going through some big changes in staffing, but has a long tradition of meeting cooperator's needs. The Unit was established in 1937 and was about the 10<sup>th</sup> Unit created in the program. The Unit's first projects (which was only a wildlife Unit at the time) included disease ecology of quail, whitetail deer and wild turkey research, land cover mapping, and wolf, coyote, and bobcat surveys. In 1962 a fishery Unit was created at MU and combined with wildlife in 1985 to create the Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Although we are going through substantial personnel changes now, the Missouri Unit has been very stable over the past 25 years. Since the fishery and wildlife Unit were combined, our staff has been:

### Unit Leader:

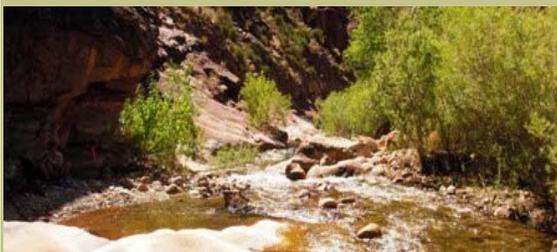
Craig Paukert (2010-present)  
David Galat (Acting; 2008-2010)  
Charlie Rabeni (1985-2008)

### Assistant Leader-Fisheries:

David Galat (1988-2010)

### Assistant Leader-Wildlife:

Lisa Webb (2011-present)  
Ron Drobney (1986-2003)



## ASSISTANT LEADER FISHERIES SOON TO BE ANNOUNCED

The Missouri Unit is planning to announce soon for an Assistant Leader-Fisheries with an expertise in watershed or landscape fish ecology. The cooperators identified that there was a need for a scientist to conduct research related to how biotic and abiotic factors affect fish at the landscape scale. Our hope is that the position will be announced on USAjobs in winter/spring 2011. If you would like more information feel free to contact Craig Paukert.

## LISA WEBB OUR NEW ASSISTANT LEADER-WILDLIFE



Dr. Lisa Webb has accepted our offer to become the new Assistant Leader Wildlife at the Missouri Unit. Her expertise in wetland and waterfowl ecology fits very well with the needs of MU and MDC. Lisa comes to us from Arkansas Tech University where she was an Assistant Professor the last 5 years. She is a native of upstate New York, but received her MS at Southern Illinois

University and a PhD from Texas Tech University. She is excited to start working with MDC, the USFWS, and other cooperators. Lisa will start in May 2011, but in the meantime she can be reached at ewebb2@atu.edu.

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Amazon auchenipterid driftwood catfish (photo: C. Robertson).

## SERVICE AN IMPORTANT PART OF MISSOURI UNIT

**Craig Paukert** continued to be active in the American Fisheries Society as an Associate Editor for *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*, and as Secretary-Treasurer for the Education Section of the AFS. He is also currently a guest co-editor for the journal *Endangered Species Management*.

**Craig Paukert** also attended the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership (DFHP) meeting in Utah to provide updates from the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP). Craig is the NFHAP Science and Data Team Liaison for the DFHP and the Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership. **Jodi Whittier** attended the meeting to provide updates (with **Angela Strecker**) on a project linked to the partnership.

**Jeff Fore**, PhD student under David Galat, is a member of the American Fisheries Society Continuing Education Committee.

**Joe Gerken**, K-State PhD student under Craig Paukert, is currently the Education Section newsletter Co-Editor, Fundraising Chair for the Kansas Chapter AFS, and served on the Awards Committee for the NorthCentral Division of AFS.

**Jodi Whittier** was webpage editor for the Arizona/New Mexico AFS from 2008 through 2010. She also created and hosted the webpage for the Kansas Chapter AFS until 2010, and developed the Western Division AFS annual meeting webpage in 2009.